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COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg.

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 October 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. From 6 p.m. on 22 September to 23 September 1953, 15 tanks, 2 SP guns, 8 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns, 3 field kitchens and 2 six-wheel armored personnel carriers with 37-mm AA guns left the Beseler Kaserne in Wittenberg for an exercise, proceeding toward Jessen. At 6 p.m. on 23 September, they were followed by 19 tanks, 6 trucks,

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and FA-64 armored scout cars

At about 2 p.m. on 24 September, about 60 trucks,

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carrying troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets; and 4 BA-64 armored scout cars left the Taentzien

Kaserne. At about 7 p.m. on 24 September, 10 T-43 tanks and 15 trucks returned to the Beseler Kaserne from the training area. At about 8 p.m. on 27 September, JS-3 tank the crew of which wore gasmasks, was towed away in Wittenberg. Between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on 23 September, intensive flying activity and practices with searchlights were observed east of Wittenberg.

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2. On 15 September, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 10 and 15 September, training concentrated on infantry training in the barracks area. A number of troops were working on two T-34/85 tanks in the barracks yard. During the period under review, motor vehicles occupied by troops daily left the installation toward Teuchel, returning at dusk.

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3. Prior to 13 September, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 700 to 800 troops. At about 6:30 a.m. on 14 September, 10 T-34/85 tanks and about 150 troops from the Flak Kaserne were entrained at the Wittenberg freight station and left toward Falkenberg. The troops had been shuttled to the station by truck. On 15 September, the installation occupied by about 550 to 650 troops. Physical training was the only activity observed in the barracks yard. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the

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installation [redacted]

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4. At about 5:30 a.m. on 21 September, 21 T-34/85 tanks [redacted]

and trucks [redacted] were entrained at the Wittenberg freight station, and dispatched toward Falkenberg.

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5. On 5 September, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Between 21 and 25 September, 30 to 40 T-43 tanks, about 10 JS-1 and JS-2 tanks, at least 20 JS-3 tanks, about 15 JSU-122 guns and 4 x 76-mm AT guns were seen in the installation. On 21 September, T-43 tanks [redacted]

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were seen near the tank sheds. On 23 September, 10 T-43 tanks [redacted] were seen in front of the tank sheds. [redacted] these tanks had been detrained at the Wittenberg main railroad station shortly before. The tanks were heavily soiled. At about 5 p.m., sedan [redacted] occupied by the division commander, entered the installation, coming from the direction of Jessen. After about 15 minutes, the general left for the detached building opposite the Taubentzien Kaserne. At the same time, two field-grade officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets went to this building, coming from the Taubentzien Kaserne. At about 9:15 p.m., JS-3 tanks [redacted] and JS-1 tank [redacted] were seen entering the installation, coming from the direction of Jessen.

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[redacted], on 24 September, some of the newly arrived tanks left toward Zoernigall via Muehlanger. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation [redacted]

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6. On 25 September, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 24 September, eight trucks occupied to capacity by troops were seen entering the installation. [redacted]

At about 8 p.m., groups of about 50 soldiers totaling about 350 soldiers and including 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, and armed with submachine guns, rifles, light machine guns and 22 antitank guns, entered the installation, coming from the direction of Euper and Labetz. Motor vehicles [redacted] were identified en route to and from the installation. 1

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7. On 25 September, the Arado installation was occupied by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. [redacted]

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5 JSU-122 guns, 2 to 3 JS-3 tanks, 50X1-HUM and at least 10 T-43 tanks in the barracks area. On 22 September, about 150 troops marched singing in the barracks yard and 2 JSU-122 guns, 50X1-HUM

2 T-34 tanks [redacted] 3 T-43 tanks [redacted] 2 T-43 tanks [redacted] and T-34 tank [redacted] were seen in the barracks area. Motor vehicle [redacted]

8. On 14 September, the former quarters of the KVP driving school in Apollensdorf were occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On the same day, about 200 troops left the installation for an advanced combat practice, proceeding southward to the Elbe River. 3

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1. [ ] Comment. Contrary to the preceding year, major elements of the 6th Gds Tank Div were continually observed at the post since early July 1953. These elements were rotated to the Wender-Markendorf training area. The occupation of Wittenberg has increased and the division headquarters appeared to be at the post since early September. The loadings toward Jessen and the departure of tanks toward Zoernigall tend to indicate that the units left the post for practices in the known training area in Forst Gluecksburg north of Jessen.

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3. [ ] Comment. Prior to July 1953, the 35th Engr Regt (US) was stationed in Apollensdorf for instruction on the Elbe River. [ ] Apollensdorf unoccupied on 6 September. [ ]

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